

**INSIDE: MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2007**

All Village of  
Arden Residents are  
Encouraged to  
Attend the next

# ***Town Meeting***

**Monday June 25, 2007  
In the Gild Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
2326 The Highway, Arden, Delaware**

## **THE TOWN ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:**

1. Report on recent Trustee Referendum
2. Election to fill two vacancies on Community Planning Committee
3. Presentation of Assessors Report for 2007

Committees will report in Reverse Order at this Meeting

***All are welcome hither***

Please note: Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote if they have resided in the Village of Arden the six months prior to the Meeting, and are 18 years of age, or older.

## Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (uncorrected)

### Monday, March 26, 2007

A total of 70 residents were present for this meeting. In 2003 through 2006, there was early voting, with attendance of 63 in 2006, 67 in 2005, 62 in 2004 and 101 in 2003. In years before early voting, 55 attended in 2002, 51 in 2001, 63 in 2000, 74 in 1999, 44 in 1998, 66 in 1997, and 55 in 1996. There was no early voting this year.

Beverly A. Barnett

Lou Bean

Ruth Bean

Steven B. Blades

Brooke Bovard

Dale Brumbaugh

Lizzie Broadbent

Drumlin Brooke

Marianne Cinaglia

Felise T. Cressman

Mike Curtis

Alton J. Dahl

Dorinda Dove

Carl Falco

Mike FitzHarris

Willard Glenn

Aaron Hamburger

Sally Hamburger

Steve Harcourt

Barbara Henry

Elaine Hickey

Linn Hoopes Jr.

Rodney Jester

A. Barnes King

Linda Kolski

Ken Mabry

Mary Marconi

Connec Wright

McKinney

Rebecca Meick

Ron Meick

David Michelson

Lisa Mullinax

Mary Murphy

Megan Murphy

David Nordheimer

Cookie Ohlson

Betty O'Regan

Denis O'Regan

Ron Ozer

Ruth Panella

Roberta Perkins

Pamela Politis

Bill Press

Gary Quinton

Annie Renzetti

Peter A. Renzetti

Deborah M. Ricard

Charlie Robinson

Nanette Robinson

Ed Rohrbach

Warren Rosenkranz

Richard Rothrock

Sue Rothrock

Kate Sayer

Marvin Sayer

Danny Schweers

Ray Seigfried

Sally Sharp

Sadie Somerville

Beth Stevenson

Steve Tanzer

Bill Theis

Steven Threefoot

Elizabeth Varley

Mary Vernon

Cecilia Vore

Larry Walker

Leah Walker

Laura Wallace

Tom Wheeler

Also in attendance but not voting were young Arden residents Leannan Harcourt-Brooke, Rowan Harcourt-Brooke, Tegan Harcourt-Brooke, and Tiernan Harcourt-Brooke, as well as Ardencroft residents Pat Morrison, Linda Toman and Patrick Toman, and State Legislative District 7 candidate Bryan Short.

## 1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND MINUTES CORRECTED

Steven Threefoot, Chair of the Town Assembly, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Ruth Bean corrected names on page 14, ITEM 15.1: The Neighborhood Support group has three dispatchers: Ruth Bean, Phyllis Conner and Rusty Hoegger. With that correction. The minutes were accepted.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTS

No new residents were present.

## 1.2 INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Bryan Short introduced himself as a candidate for State Representative, 7th District. He is an Arden Club member, a regular at the Arden Fair and at concerts, and lives across Naamans Creek from Arden. He worked for Tom Carper when Tom was a U.S. Congressman and Governor. He worked as a case worker for four years, then as Dept. of Transportation Deputy Director. For the past eight years, he has had his own company, developing in-fill housing in Wilmington's 9th Ward, buying property, building townhomes, and making Wilmington a better place. Brooke Bovard noted that the April 14 special election will be held at the Buzz Ware Village Center. [NOTE: Bryan Short, a Democrat, went on to win the election, replacing Wayne Smith, a Republican, who had resigned his seat.]

## 1.3 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Elizabeth Varley moved, and it was seconded, that the rules be suspended for election of committee members and officers. Ballots were passed out and collected. Cecilia Vore noted that not enough people are running for vacancies on the Community Planning Committee. This committee is, as Bev Barnett, put it, dormant, though it has been busy in the past on zoning issues, roadways, etc. Brooke Bovard volunteered to be a candidate. Ballots will be counted tomorrow night, Tuesday, March 27, in Room 4 of the BWVC at 7:00 p.m. [NOTE: Election results were posted on Village boards and on TheArdens.com website immediately after the ballots were counted.]



## 1.4 RECOGNITION OF DEPARTED

Bill Weible, Walter Broadbent, and Robert Hilliard died recently. Robert died while he and his wife were in Florida. Walter Broadbent was active in village life, including service on the Civic Committee.

## 1.5 COMMUNICATIONS

Steven Threefoot noted the receipt of several letters and other communications, as described below.

The Trustees of Arden announced that Aaron Hamburger will step down as Trustee as soon as a replacement is elected by referendum. They have a nominee to replace Aaron.

Susan Warner noted that the FAA is changing flight plans at the Philadelphia airport. Steven recognizes this can be a frustrating process. Bev Barnett said she has drafts of arrival and departure plans. An important meeting is April 30, 6-10, at one of the local high schools.

Former State Representative Wayne Smith explained his resignation and enumerated his accomplishments.

Preservation Delaware donated a book to the Arden Library: Monopoly, The Story Behind the World's Best-Selling Game by Rod Kennedy. The book, in discussing the history of the game, mentions Arden and the Single-Tax Economic Philosophy of Henry George.

In another letter, Wayne Smith outlined proposed deed restriction enforcements, House Bill 454. Steven has the letter. Also, the bill can be seen on the Internet.

The DNREC Parks & Recreation has called for grant applications. These are competitive grants, up to 50% for projects, \$25,000 to \$100,000 for parks and trails.

Brandywine School District will hold a referendum soon, calling for a 24% increase in school tax for this year and 10% each year thereafter or so.

Next Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., there will be a reception for the Hamburgers before they move to their next village, New York City.

## 1.6 COMCAST VIDEO FRANCHISE.

Steven noted that the three villages have concluded and approved a franchise agreement with Comcast. Asks for motion to give authority to Secretary and Chair to finalize agreement when it comes back to our attorneys. Structure is nearly identical to agreement with Verizon. One difference is that Verizon is providing video to our locations whereas Comcast will provide Internet access. Brook Bovard made the motion, with many seconds. Danny read the resolution, similar to one approved in September. [NOTE: the following is the motion as amended and approved.]

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO OF A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT GRANTING A NONEXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO COMCAST OF NEW CASTLECOUNTY, LLC., TO MAINTAIN, EXTEND, AND OPERATE A CABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN.

WHEREAS, The Village of Arden wishes to grant Comcast of New Castle County, LLC., a nonexclusive franchise to maintain, extend, and operate a cable communications system in the Village, in accordance with Title VI of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §521 et. seq.;

WHEREAS, The Village of Arden and Comcast of New Castle County, LLC., have reached agreement on the terms and conditions of said franchise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Assembly of Arden, New Castle County, Delaware, hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The Village of Arden hereby authorizes the Chair and the Secretary of the Town Assembly of Arden, New Castle County, Delaware, at their discretion, to enter into of a Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast of New Castle County, LLC., to maintain, extend, and operate a cable communications system, the specific terms of which, agreeable to both parties, shall be memorialized in said Agreement.

Section 2. If any sentence, clause, section or part of this resolution is, for any reason, found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts hereof. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Town Assembly that this resolution would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

Section 3. Resolutions in whole or in part conflicting with any provisions of this

resolution are hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this resolution.

SO RESOLVED this 26th day of March 2007.

DISCUSSION: Alton Dahl: We cannot legally abandon ordinances without three readings. Steven suggests striking the word "ordinances" in Section 3 above. Brook agrees. Steve Tanzer: misspelling in first paragraph. Bad punctuation in second paragraph. [These are corrected in above document.] Marianne Cinaglia: means another wire goes up? Steven: No, just continues what is in place with new services. One difference in the new contract is that we can change fee with 60 day notice. Alton: Comcast may replace cable with fiber optic line. Question called. Resolution accepted unanimously.

Verizon uncertain when service will be available to all residents. Pat Toman is our liaison. End of March was required in franchise agreement; now they are saying late summer. Village will negotiate.

## 1.7 ARDEN FAIR T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Lizzie Broadbent is point person for T-shirt design for the 100th Arden Fair.

## 2.0 TRUSTEES REPORT

Aaron Hamburger made the following report, his last as Trustee.

This is my final report to you as a Trustee [cheers, laughter] and probably my last attendance at Town Assembly [deep sighs, moans]. I have a few comments to make about leaving Arden, but I'll save them for Saturday's reception.

## NEW TRUSTEE

The Trustees have nominated Rodney Jester for Trustee to replace me. All Arden residents will be getting a referendum ballot by mail next week. It is vital for the future health of our community that everyone votes in the meantime, Rodney is available by phone, 529-1612, or e-mail, [rwjrunk@earthlink.net](mailto:rwjrunk@earthlink.net), for questions and discussion. On Monday, April 23, 7:30 P.M., BWVC, there will be a "meet the candidate night" session with Rodney.

## BUCKINGHAM GREEN SUIT

No changes. We still are waiting for the court's decision on the remedy for this case.



## LEASEHOLD TRANSFERS

There have been no leasehold transfers since the last Town Assembly in January.

## JOB CHANGE

The Trustees are dividing the job of Administrative Assistant into two separate parts. One part will be Administrative Assistant to the Trustees and will be retained by Elizabeth Varley. This position will deal with leasehold transfers, property issues and most contacts with the public. The other job, Accountant, will handle all financial dealings of the Trust and the Village of Arden. We expect that the job changes will help upgrade our financial systems and improve efficiency. We also expect that we can accomplish these changes with the same money currently budgeted for the present positions. We are still working on the plan, but think it will be in place before May. The job changes may require opening a new office for the Trust and the Village of Arden. If so, the new location will probably be at BWVC.

## FINANCIAL

Turning to the financial report which you all should have. The Village is in good financial shape as we end our fiscal year with over one-half million dollars in assets. However, this is deceiving because much of this money will be paid to New Castle County and the Brandywine School District in September. Our tax bill will be higher than what we budgeted due to recently announced tax increases. The outlook for the next few years is bleak as County and School taxes are expected to continue to increase at an above normal rate. All this means that we are likely to see significant increases in land rent for the next 3 - 4 years.

### Bank Balances as of March 24, 2007

#### Checking /Savings

Arden Building & Loan—Trustee	\$158,602.51
Wilmington Trust—Trustees	\$309,461.16
Vanguard Fund 30	\$3,726.07
Vanguard Fund 33	\$3,755.03
Vanguard Fund 50 MSA	<u>\$32,321.77</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$507,866.54
Accounts Receivable—Land Rent	<u>\$7,853.97</u>

#### Total Current Assets

\$515,720.51

### Expenses Against Budget as of March 24, 2007

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<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations - Hurricane relief (payment)	-2,363.85	0.00
Grants	2,950.00	0.00
Interest - Trustees Checking Acct	400.36	0.00
Investment Income	12,262.52	0.00
Land Rent	435,000.00	444,000.00
Land Rent Finance Charge	1,066.73	0.00
Meadow Lane Access	702.70	699.00
Memorial Garden Donations	2,395.00	2,000.00
Rights-of-way	19,032.74	15,000.00
Uncategorized Income	<u>887.56</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>472,333.76</b>	<b>461,699.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advisory Committee	210.61	300.00
Archives	1,170.14	1,000.00
Board of Assessors	0.00	50.00
Buzz Ware Committee	13,711.79	15,000.00
Civic	80,889.13	83,000.00
Community Planning	0.00	1,000.00
Contingencies	0.00	2,000.00
Contributions	4,850.00	5,120.00
Gild Hall Rental	1,535.00	1,250.00
Grant Expense	2,557.98	0.00
Loan Payable	16,183.49	16,200.00
Playground	1,799.02	1,800.00
Registration	703.95	700.00
Safety	2,400.00	5,400.00
Special Ardencroft Parkland	5,000.00	5,000.00
Taxes	295,993.16	277,711.00
Town Administrative Expenses	3,575.50	3,250.00
Town Bookkeeper Gross Wages	2,693.00	2,936.00
Town Secretary Gross Wages	6,532.00	7,230.00
Trustee Administration	52,903.77	55,026.00
Memorial Garden Expenses	5,146.67	4,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>497,855.21</u></b>	<b><u>487,973.00</u></b>

## DISCUSSION

Bill Press: When you say we will have the opportunity to meet the candidate, is it in order for anyone else who would like to be trustee to speak for themselves or someone else. Aaron: they can, but it would be awkward. Steven: Our system is that



Trustees put up one nominee at a time. Aaron: anyone can come to the meeting and say anything they want. Rodney Jester: I will be traveling a good bit of April, so I might not be available when you call or e-mail. Mike Curtis: That will be your last vacation for 20 years. Charles Robinson: About pending tax increases, they are talking about a billion dollar increase statewide.

This report was accepted unanimously [with a standing ovation for Aaron and Sally].

### 3. ASSESSORS REPORT

Brooke Bovard, the current chair, made the following report.

To know what's going on, look at the official meeting minutes at theArdens.com. Feb. 27 was last meeting. Discussed rates and methods of assessment. Reached consensus that we will assess using factors and by square footage without introducing any new rates. Another meeting tomorrow, all are welcome to it and all meetings. Public meetings are upcoming.

This report was accepted unanimously.

### 4. SAFETY COMMITTEE

Denis O'Regan gave the following report.  
Mailbox bashing continues.

There continues to be occasional consumer fireworks usage. (A neighbor going to the scene is usually the most effective means of curbing this activity, although you can call the Delaware State Fire Marshal to report an illegal user or address with recurring use)

A recent four-wheeler was on the Sherwood green (a neighbor did look into it, but missed a showdown)

Town Watch Coordinator Betty O'Regan, a woman I am very close to, has announced her retirement, in the form of demand that I get this off her back. At our last meeting, I announced this was on the horizon, any time now, we're going to have a lapse in this service. Betty has done this for the last 3 or 4 years, during which we've experienced a solid upswing in the Watch; So, before it's too late, for safety of the Ardens, and me, we should thank Betty for her good service.  
[applause]

### DISCUSSION

Ruth Bean: Traffic is getting worse on Harvey Road. Can we request police enforcement? Denis: Yes, please do call police and ask for enforcement. Call bus companies as well. We plan to pay for speed enforcement in early spring. Lynda

Kolski: three serious accidents recently on Harvey Road. Denis: Sometimes I get bill but don't know if enforcement has taken place. Barney King: if we get bill for police enforcement, it is supposed to have all the details.

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 5. REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Cecilia Vore made the following report.

The Registration Committee will count votes for the Committee Election tomorrow night, Tuesday, March 27, starting at 7 pm in room 4 of the Buzz Ware Village Center. We need a few more volunteers to help. Please see me if you are interested. Results will be posted on theardens.com website and town bulletin boards on Wednesday.

Thank you to all residents who have completed their two-year terms on various committees. Thank you to all who have agreed to run for committees in tonight's election.

Ballots for the confirmation of the next Arden trustee will be mailed on Thursday morning, March 29. All residents 18 years of age and older who have lived in the Village for 6 months or more are eligible to vote. The deadline for voting to approve or disapprove the Trustee nominee is Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m., when ballots will be counted in Room 3 of the Buzz Ware Village Center. All residents are welcome to observe. Reminder that Arden referendums are approved by a majority of those who are eligible to vote, not by a majority of those actually voting. [For example, if there are 400 eligible voters, a referendum must receive 201 favorable votes in order to pass.]

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 6. PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Larry Walker made the following report.

Since the last Town Meeting, the required one Playground Equipment Inspection was made, and the equipment was adult tested for safety. All equipment appears to be in good and safe condition.

The Playground Committee has recently installed a manufactured trademarked wood chip product that is twice as expensive as what the Committee had been using. We have installed the manufactured product under the playground equipment on the Village Green, and will continue to install this product under swings on the Sherwood Green.

The main effort of the Committee has been maintaining a bed wood chips under the playground equipment. Over time, the wood chips break down, decay, and are kicked away, but keeping a thick bed of chips is the best way to provide a cushion for when a child accidentally falls. According to the national statistics on playground safety, over 80% of all playground injuries are the result of falls from equipment. A soft landing surface makes a great difference in reducing injuries. Because of our efforts in previous years, there is still a significant cushion of wood chips under all equipment, and the last serious injury was over a decade ago, to the best of our knowledge.

Cecilia Vore: Asks all to thank Larry Walker for his years of service and diligence to keep our playground equipment safe. [Applause]

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 7. FOREST COMMITTEE

Alton Dahl made the following report prepared by co-chairs Mary L. Marconi and Shelley Robyn.

SUNSET LANE: people have been dumping yard waste in the forest off Sunset Lane. We hired Hal Goodwin to clean up what was there and contracted with him to put up 2 sections of fence and a gate or chicane to stop the problem in the future.

WOODS CLEANUP: Date set for April 28 at 9:00 a.m. at the following locations: Sherwood Forest at the water tower, Arden Woods at Marsh Road Bridge, Ardentown at the lower end of Brae Road, and Ardencroft at the end of Beech Lane. The following coordinators agreed to supervise the cleanup: Alton Dahl, Shari Phalan, Pat Toman, and Elaine Schmerling. Afterwards, there will be food and refreshments at the Buzz Ware Village Center hosted by the Community Planning Committee. Arranging for bags and gloves - Lizzie Broadbent. Special trash pickup - Sue Rothrock. "Details and invitation" in April Page - Mary Marconi.

DYING TREES: A neighbor from Buckingham Greene whose property borders our woods had two dying trees that are threatening his house. We will be splitting the cost of taking them down with him. Kerns Brothers will do the work.

DISCUSSION: Larry Walker: Concerned about fence at end of Shady Lane. Gates can disappear. Instead, he recommends posts placed two-feet apart. Alton: yes, actually "gate posts" is what it says here.

This report was accepted unanimously.



## 8. COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

In lieu of an official report, Steven Threefoot talked about the continuing issue of non-conforming Multiple Domiciles.

Steven noted that he met earlier this month with representatives of New Castle County Land Use Department and discussed the 27 non-conforming rental properties in Arden. As it stands now, the owners of those properties would not be allowed to rebuild after a fire or other destruction. 13 of the leaseholds have paid the multi-domicile factor in their land-rent since 1973. NCCo wants documentation going back to 1954. Compromise is go back to county records to see when the building structures were built and compare that to 1954. 13 of the 27 leaseholds have documents back to 1956. No problem with those. Other 14 do not have documentation at this point. Will have NCCo pull paper documents from files to research this. Have confidence most of these can be done. Also discussed ways of reducing costs: \$200/property in simplest form; process typically runs \$2,000 to \$4,000 per property. We want to do these properties all at once at some reduced cost.

Aaron Hamburger: When we started this process, we knew we didn't have documentation going back to 1954. What we have instead is a 35-year record of the Village accepting these properties as legal. County should accept this. Steven: I want to take care of these 13 easy ones first, then work on harder ones. This was an initial meeting, without benefit of Community Planning. Connee Wright McKinney: This sounds good, approve anything to move this forward.

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 9. CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sue Rothrock made the following report.

MOTION: Elizabeth Varley moved to authorize DelDOT to communicate with Town Chair and Secretary by e-mail instead of paper communications when they are about to do work in Arden. Question called. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Rachel Tanzer did a stream watch test and presented a report to the Civic Committee on water quality in the lower branch of Naaman's Creek at three sample points, as compared to tap water. Tested were pH (acidity), hardness, pesticides, bacteria, chlorine, nitrates and lead. The conclusion is that the water quality of Lower Naaman's Creek is good, with no pesticides, lead, or chlorine. All the creek samples tested positive for bacteria, although the smallest stream sample at Pond Lane was marginal. Bacteria is common in the soil and can be due plants and animal waste. Our tap water tested for more hardness than the streams and had no bacteria.

It is time for the 3rd annual Electronics Recycling Day. Bring your old electronic items to the Buzz Ware Village Center Parking lot on April 21, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. There is a list of accepted items on the table here tonight and it will be posted on the bulletin boards.

Speaking of recycling ... It's Arden Free Yard Sale Days! It is time to clean out those closets, garages, and basements! Village of Arden residents should start to put their treasures on the curb beginning Saturday April 21. Pickup will be with the trash removal on Friday 27th. Please remember that refrigerants must be removed and tagged on refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers. No propane tanks or tires or other hazardous waste will be accepted.

The last item on the recycling front is that DNREC has postponed the New Castle County Yard Waste Ban until January 15, 2008. We are still encouraging you to use the yard waste bags or the Ardentown yard waste recycling center.

The new yard-waste recycling bags do not tear, which is good, but they are not biodegradable plastic, which is bad. The rumor is that the bags are not being emptied before being mulched. Therefore we encourage people to do their own mulching and composting for the time being. Elaine Hickey: Will they take branches tied up with string? Sue: No, but branches over 3-inches in diameter can go into regular trash.

This report was accepted unanimously.

#### 10. BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER COMMITTEE

Willard Glenn made the following report.

Here is the latest on the Buzz, mostly updates on the building. Adult Bathroom (bathroom by Room 4) has been completed and open for business! The bidding process for the new roof is complete and the work is to begin early spring. Exterior painting of the Buzz is planned for fall 2007. Stay tuned for an upcoming Arden Summer Kick-off "Jimmy Buffet" party sponsored by the Buzz.

#### DISCUSSION

Betty O'Regan: Wondering if BWVC Committee has ever tried to get compensation from the paint company for the paint that discolored so quickly. There was something wrong with the paint. Willard: yes, we could look into it. It has been less than five years. Elizabeth Varley says we would have invoice for paint, which we bought ourselves.

Brooke Bovard: Wondering shabbiness of exterior including graffiti and peeling at bottom of new custom-made doors. Can we have some collective activity to clean



building. Willard: lots of surface of preparatory work needed before painting the building; that's the real work.

Sally Hamburger: Any clue as to color? Willard: Original was light minty green (NO!) We have decided on red. [Applause]

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 11. BUDGET COMMITTEE

Steve Tanzer made the following report.

### 11.1 General Note to Property Tax Increases

Jack Dolmetsch, who prepared much of this report, would ask that you not kill the messenger. Because of the 17.5% raise in New Castle County taxes and the impending school tax referendum in late April, Arden could realize a \$53,025 shortfall for the fiscal year ending March 2008 if all features of the referendum are passed. The projected total for school & county taxes for this period is \$363,516 and we have budgeted \$310,491.

### NEW CASTLE COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

As of last week. New Castle County has increased taxes 17.5% for the fiscal year ending 2008. Further raises are estimated at 5% per year. (Arden's Fiscal Year does not match the County's.)

### BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES

There will be a referendum in late April by the Brandywine School District (BSD) to raise rates. The approximate overall raise (asked for in two components) in rates will be 24% if everything is passed. Go to the BSD website for details.

The school tax rates consist of the following components:

- 1 - Current expense for BSD: Can only be changed by referendum
- 2 - Athletic Fields: Amounts set by 2005 referendum
- 3 - Safety, security, energy, maintenance: Amounts set by 2005 referendum
- 4 - Current expense (County portion): Cannot be changed, set by statute
- 5 - Debt Service Tax: Can only be changed by referendum
- 6 - Tuition Tax : Referendum not necessary for raises
- 7 - Minor Capital Improvement Tax: Referendum not necessary for raises
- 8 - Technology Tax: Cannot be changed, set by statute
- 9 - Votech Rate (Part of County Tax): Referendum not necessary for raises

The BSD referendum will ask for raises in 1, 2, & 3 in two separate parts  
A re-evaluation of this Budget Forecast will be made after the school referendum.

### 2007 THREE-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTION

[NOTE: The projection shown here was generated on May 16, 2007, and correctly assumes that the BSD referendum passed. It is a more accurate projection than the one presented at the March meeting.]



		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	Notes	Actual	Appropriated	Appropriated	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
<b>NON-BUDGET EXPENSES:</b>							
<b>Property Taxes</b>							
County	1	55,146	55,900	61,859	75,131	79,676	84,497
School	2	222,045	222,705	248,632	287,732	301,613	316,601
<b>Sub-Total: Property Taxes</b>		<b>277,191</b>	<b>278,605</b>	<b>310,491</b>	<b>362,863</b>	<b>381,289</b>	<b>401,098</b>
<b>Trustees Administration</b>							
Audit		6,100	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	6,000
Insurance		10,247	10,000	11,000	11,000	12,000	12,000
Legal		1,292	15,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	10,000
Operations & fees		9,822	9,000	9,000	9,000	8,000	7,000
Office Rent		2,220	2,316	2,436	2,520	2,520	2,592
Payroll Taxes		1,100	1,200	1,184	1,230	1,280	1,320
Salaries		10,314	11,160	11,496	11,844	12,204	12,564
<b>Sub-Total: Trustees Admin.</b>		<b>41,095</b>	<b>54,176</b>	<b>55,616</b>	<b>54,094</b>	<b>51,504</b>	<b>51,476</b>
<b>Long Term Debt</b>		<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,180</b>
<b>Grants-State of Delaware</b>							
Grant to Civic Committee		0	0	0	0	0	0
Municipal Street Aid		18,987	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Trail Renewal Grant		950		950	950	950	950
<b>Sub-Total: State Grants</b>		<b>19,937</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>18,950</b>
<b>Sub-total: Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>		<b>354,403</b>	<b>366,961</b>	<b>401,237</b>	<b>452,087</b>	<b>467,923</b>	<b>487,704</b>

## NOTES TO 2007 THREE-YEAR PROJECTIONS

### 1. New Castle County Property Taxes

As of March, New Castle County has increased Property Taxes by 17.5% for the Fiscal Year ending in 2008. Further Property Tax raises are estimated at 5% per year.

### 2. Brandywine School District

There will be another Referendum in June by the Brandywine School District to raise School Tax rates. The approximate overall raise in rates will be 16.5% if it passes. (NOTE: The Referendum did pass.)

		2005-06	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
<b>BUDGET EXPENSES:</b>							
Advisory		182	300	300	200	200	200
Archives	3	1,000	1,000	1,440	1,728	2,074	2,488
Assessors	A	187	50	50	50	50	50
Buzz Ware Village Center:							
Program/Administration		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Maintenance		2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Renovations		6,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Roof Renovations		6,000	6,000	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total: BWVC		15,000	15,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Civic Committee: Roads	4	11,051	18,000	18,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Commons	4	18,747	19,000	19,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Trash	5	40,598	42,000	46,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
Special Pickup		293	500	500	500	500	500
Sub-Total: Civic Committee		70,689	79,500	83,500	86,500	86,500	86,500
Community Planning							
	A	0	1,000	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Forests							
	A	2,200	3,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Playground							
	8	1,761	1,800	2,000	3,000	3,100	3,200
Registration							
		840	700	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Safety Committee							
Safety-General		83	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Town Watch Coordinator Fees		2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Harvey Road Speed Enforcement		0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sub-Total: Safety Committee		2,483	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400

## NOTES TO 2007 THREE-YEAR PROJECTIONS

Note A. The following committees have not reported projection estimates to the Budget Committee; therefore the projection figures used are continuations of the appropriated amounts for the year ending 2008: Assessors, Community Planning and Forests.

3 - Archives is estimating a 20% increase per year for planned mounting of new exhibits, printing, mailings, program costs, repairs, and archival materials for storage and display.

4 - The Civic Committee switches funds freely between Roads & Commons as is necessary and although the two are separated on this spreadsheet, it is treated as one line item.

		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
	NOTES	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	APPROPRIATED	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
<b>Town Expenses:</b>							
Secretary	6	6,456	6,648	6,852	5,000	5,150	5,304
Town Bookkeeping	6	2,640	2,700	2,784	2,867	2,953	3,042
Town Payroll Taxes		899	850	996	810	834	859
Town Administrative Expenses		3,049	3,250	3,250	3,600	3,750	3,750
Gild Hall Rental		1,200	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,450
<b>Sub-Total: Town Expenses</b>		<b>14,244</b>	<b>14,698</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>13,627</b>	<b>14,037</b>	<b>14,405</b>
<b>Donations:</b>							
ACRA		1,450	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,575
Arden Page		1,450	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,575
Arden Library		550	600	600	650	650	700
Fire Companies	7	1,250	1,250	1,450	1,500	1,600	1,650
Ardencroft Parkland Purchase		0	5,000	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-Total: Donations</b>		<b>4,700</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>5,050</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,500</b>
Contingencies		0	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL: BUDGET EXPENSES</b>		<b>113,286</b>	<b>134,798</b>	<b>130,022</b>	<b>132,755</b>	<b>133,711</b>	<b>134,843</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>467,689</b>	<b>501,759</b>	<b>531,259</b>	<b>584,842</b>	<b>601,634</b>	<b>622,547</b>

## NOTES TO 2007 THREE-YEAR PROJECTIONS

- 5 - The trash contract is in effect through the fiscal year ending 2009. The figures for years ending 2010 & 2011 are guesses.
- 6 - The secretary's salary has been reduced based on new estimate, of hours to perform the job duties. Increases in salaries are 3% or less.
- 7 - Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Fire Company donation is \$8.25 per household per year.
- 8 - Price of mulch for playgrounds has doubled



## DISCUSSION

Steven Threefoot noted that we have reserve funds to cover the \$53,025 shortfall for the fiscal year ending March 2008, but these reserve funds will have to be restored in future years.

Aaron Hamburger: This is an excellent document, perhaps the best I've seen.

Good, good job! Steve Tanzer: Matthew Lo and Jack Dolmetsch, who has put in unbelievable work on the spreadsheet, deserve the credit. [Applause]

Marianne Cinaglia: Is the tax increase going to be dedicated only to the areas that can be changed by referendum? Steve Tanzer: please go to the BSD website for clarification. The referendum is well explained there.

This report was accepted unanimously.

### 13. AUDIT COMMITTEE: no report

### 14. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Lisa Mullinax made the following report.

We have cookies left, so please eat up!

On Sunday, April 15, we will host a tour of the American Planning Association, having their annual convention in Philly. This break-out session of the convention will attract perhaps as many as 50 people.

Sunday, October 14, will be Remembrance Day at Gild Hall.

In response to an earlier question, the original patent on the Monopoly game, then called the Landlord Game, was issued in 1904 to Lizzie J. Magie.

A painting by Leander Lightner has been donated to the Arden Archives by Phil Fisher, and is displayed next to one on loan.

We have a special exhibit of Buzz Ware works and lore.

Hours: Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 p.m., Sundays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

This report was accepted unanimously.

### 15. CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM

Alton Dahl made the following report.

The Board of Directors faced its most serious crisis last month when our most dependable member announced he was moving to New York City. We are pleased to announce that Pete Renzetti will replace Aaron Hamburger. We have had a few problems with heating system, none serious. All the apartments are rented.

### 16. ADVISORY: No report.

## 17. OLD BUSINESS - MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT

Ruth Bean made the following report.

The Memorial Garden is responsible to Community Planning, so we usually make our report as part of theirs. Everyone is invited to the Annual Memorial Garden Cleanup, Saturday, May 5, , 9:00 to Noon (rain day, Sunday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Anyone with family there with Christmas decorations still in place is asked to pick them up. [Laughter] Financially, the Memorial Garden is in good shape. We are doing work on some trees.

This report was accepted unanimously.

## 18. NEW BUSINESS:

Sadie Somerville announced that after the community supper on Saturday, May 19, in Gild Hall, the Georgist Gild will celebrate Mike Curtis's 40 years of championing Georgist values.

Marianne Cinaglia moved that a letter of recognition be sent to Wayne Smith acknowledging his service to the community and the Town during his time as State Representative for the 7th District. Connee Wright McKinney seconded. This motion was accepted unanimously.

## 19. GOOD AND WELFARE

Brooke Bovard proudly announced that her son, Drumlin, age 18, was here tonight for his first Town Meeting as a voting adult. Mike Curtis: I hope it isn't his last meeting! [Laughter]

MEETING ADJOURNED, 9:28 p.m.

*Faithfully Submitted,*

*Danny Schweers, Secretary*



«you are welcome hither»

Dated Materials  
Enclosed

Notice of Next  
Town Assembly

Minutes of Previous  
Town Assembly